



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
www.ohs.delaware.gov

To: Corporate Partners
From: Amanda Horton, Corporate Partner Outreach Coordinator
Date: September 15, 2020
Re: Child Passenger Safety – Traffic Safety Newsletter



*“Did you know that four out of five car seats in Delaware are being misused? Car seats are life-saving devices that cannot do their job unless they are being used correctly. Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. Often, I get asked what the best car seat is. The best car seat is one that fits the vehicle, fits the child, and will be used correctly 100% of the time. To fit the child, the car seat must be appropriate for their age, height, weight, and developmental levels. Each car seat stage should be utilized to their maximum allowance as appropriate. **Child Passenger Safety Week 2020 is September 20-26.** I encourage you to take that as a reminder to make sure that your child is safe and secure in the right car seat.*

*Hi, my name is Aubrey Klick, and I am a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor. I am one of the Fitting Station Coordinators for the Delaware Office of Highway Safety and cover Kent and Sussex Counties. My job is to help caregivers ensure that their car seats are properly installed in their vehicles and that their children are safely and properly restrained in their car seats. I am an educator, not an installer. My goal is for caregivers to feel comfortable using their child restraints and feel empowered in their child’s safety when they leave an appointment with me. Not only do I offer free individualized appointments, but the Office of Highway Safety often hosts free public car seat check-up events. We also offer educational sessions to any organization that is interested in furthering their staff’s knowledge of child passenger safety.” – **Aubrey Klick, Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician***

To make a CPS appointment with Aubrey Klick email Aubrey.Klick@Delaware.gov or call 302-387-2324. If you are located in New Castle County, please contact Shawn Rohe at 302-256-1123, or Shawn.Rohe@Delaware.gov.

- There were no major injuries caused to the 202 children in Delaware who were involved in a crash while riding rear-facing in 2019. Of that same group of children, only 4% of them suffered a minor injury.
- During the same year in Delaware, 86 children were properly restrained in a **booster seat** during a car crash. Of those children, only 1% suffered a major injury, and 12% suffered minor injuries.
- Overall, 466 Delaware children were restrained in a front-facing car seat in 2019. Less than 1% of them suffered major injuries, while 7% suffered minor injuries when involved in a crash.

Keeping children riding rear-facing for as long as possible is extremely important. The younger and smaller they are, the more fragile their neck and spinal cord are. As you can see by the above data, children that were riding rear-facing, had the least amount of injuries and fatalities when a crash occurred. When a crash occurs, the rear-facing seat cradles and moves with the child to reduce the stress of the impact on their fragile and developing bodies. People commonly think that when a child reaches 1 year of age that they no longer need to ride rear-facing, however, the child should remain rear faced for as long as possible.

TAKE IT SLOW

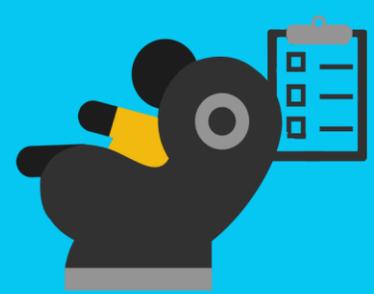
MANY KIDS MOVE TO THE NEXT CAR SEAT OR BOOSTER SEAT TOO SOON



[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat)

DO YOU KNOW THE LAST STEP OF CAR SEAT INSTALLATION?



[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat)

Checklist for keeping children safe in and around cars:

- Never leave your child unattended in or around a car for any reason.
- Don't use products such as baby mirrors that did not specifically come with your child's car seat. They can become a projectile in the event of a crash.
- Keep children riding rear faced for as long as possible.

Monthly mailings of posters and flyers are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please contact our office directly if you wish to request specific materials. [Be on the lookout for upcoming campaigns!](#)

- October 2020 – Pedestrian Safety

[For more information and tools, please visit arrivealivede.com](https://www.arrivealivede.com) or call our office at (302) 744.2740.

Please continue to share our safety messaging on your social media platforms and email Amanda.Horton@Delaware.Gov with any updated information about your organization. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram at [@HighwaySafetyDE](#). Thank you!